

OUR NEW COUNTY SOLONS

What They Did at Their First Meeting—The Poor Farm to Be Changed to an Infirmary—The Work of Good Roads.

Ocala, Fla., Jan. 4, 1909.
The board of county commissioners met in regular session on this date at ten o'clock a. m. Present: Hon. John L. Edwards, chairman, and J. M. Mathews, S. R. Pyles, N. A. Fort and C. W. Turner, commissioners.

Minutes of last meeting were read, and on motion commissioners rescinded minutes as to opening bids for county convicts today and the time of opening of such bids extended to high noon on Tuesday, February 2nd, 1909, as advertised.

Minutes of the last meeting, with the above amendment, were thereupon approved.

Widow Mary Fort appeared and asked widow's exemption. Request was granted and the tax collector, E. L. Carney, instructed to allow the exemption.

Commissioners-elect, MacKay and Proctor, being present, were asked to take seats and share in the deliberations of the body.

Letters from the Florida State Mid-Winter Fair Association of Tampa, Florida, were read, and representatives were heard, asking an appropriation for the purpose of making a display at the Tampa Fair. After discussion the request was refused.

Letters from the U. S. department of agriculture, forest service, at Washington were read, asking names for the forest service mailing list. Names were given.

Letter of Justice of the Peace Douglas was read and on motion the warrants returned were ordered cancelled.

Petition for road to run east and west from hard road known as the Ocala and Pedro road to the Belleview hard road read and granted on condition that the petitioners open and keep up the road without expense to the county.

Letter of A. S. J. McKinney read and on motion warrant was ordered drawn to A. S. J. McKinney for \$50, to cover damage claimed on account of road.

Board adjourned for dinner until 1:30 p. m.

Monday, Jan. 4, 1909, 1:30 P. M.
Board met pursuant to adjournment. All members present.

Bill of Ocala Water Company read and referred to Commissioner Fort.

Commissioner Pyles made report of cemetery appropriation. The balance of this appropriation, \$10.69, ordered paid to the secretary of the old cemetery committee.

On motion of City Directory Company for one city directory was refused.

Mr. F. E. Harris appeared and asked that the printing of the delinquent tax list for 1908 be awarded to the Ocala Banner. On motion the request was granted.

Boxes of cigars from Mr. F. E. Harris with his compliments to the old and new board were received, and a vote of thanks tendered to Mr. Harris for his courtesy.

Commissioner N. A. Fort made report on the progress of the steel bridges at Sharps Ferry and Moss Bluff.

Bill of E. T. Williams for registration services was discussed, and an explanation had from Mr. Williams. Thereupon the bill was ordered paid.

Bond of Gus A. Waters for license to carry rifle read and approved.

Bond of J. B. Caldwell, Jr., for license to carry pistol read and approved.

Bond of Sam W. Petteway, with J. D. Robertson and Walter Ray as sureties for justice of the peace district No. 6, read and approved.

Bond of T. L. Johnson, with J. W. Davis and L. B. Branch as sureties, for justice of the peace district No. 8, read and approved.

Bond of J. R. Wilder, with D. A. Smith, A. R. Griffin and F. W. Bishop as sureties, for justice of the peace for district No. 28, read and approved.

Bond of J. D. Scruggs, with W. H. Proctor and T. K. Slaughter as sureties, for justice of the peace for district No. 28, read and approved.

Bond of R. C. Yongue, with H. Gattrell and Jno. W. Smoak as sureties, for justice of the peace for district No. 31, read and approved.

Bond of D. R. Zetrouer, with S. H. Walkup and C. E. Bateman as sureties, for justice of the peace district No. 32, read and approved.

Application by Mrs. Mary E. Proctor of Pedro, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Burleson of Citra, Mrs. Julia J. Ballard of Ocala for widow's pensions were read and approved.

Application of P. B. Livingston of Lowell for pension was read and approved.

Board thereupon went into executive session and opened the sealed bids for the purchase of the poor farm, etc., as advertised.

After discussion they were all laid over for the action of the incoming new board.

On motion the board adjourned until tomorrow morning, January 5, 1909.

Tuesday, January 5, 1909
Board of county commissioners met in regular session. Present: Commissioners George MacKay, J. M. Mathews, M. M. Proctor, N. A. Fort and J. W. Crosby.

On motion Commissioner George MacKay was unanimously elected chairman of the board for the year 1909.

On motion of Commissioner Mathews the following resolutions were offered, read, and on motion the same were ordered inscribed on the records and minutes of the board:

"Whereas, Messrs. Turner, Pyles and Edwards have now retired from their official duties as county commissioners, and

"Whereas, They have been zealous, faithful, earnest and conscientious in the discharge of their duties, and have wrought well for the interests of the people of the county; therefore be it

"Resolved, That we extend to them our sincere appreciation for their faithful and ardent work while in office.

"Resolved, further, That they carry with them the good wishes of the board for their future success and happiness."

Ex-Commissioners Edwards, Pyles and Turner, coming in, were invited to sit and participate with the board in their deliberations.

S. T. Sistrunk presented report of expenditures for inspectors and clerks of the late election and same was approved and filed.

On motion a former ruling that all bills against the county must be filed with the clerk in time to have same audited, and all bills against the county must show what use the material was intended for and o. k'd. by parties ordering the goods, was ratified and adopted for the year 1909.

Bond for licenses to carry pistol were approved and licenses granted as follows:

M. G. Davis, S. D. Atkinson, A. A. Mathews, L. F. Priest, Lee Hogans, Baxter Morrison, A. M. Bobbitt and F. C. Brassell.

S. R. Pyles presented the following poor farm report:

Poor Farm Report

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners:

I having visited the farm for the month of December, beg to submit as my report the following:

The inmates are 15 in all, 4 whites and 11 colored. One Charley Haynes, a colored man, made mention of in my last report as being very low with consumption, died on the 8th ult. There were three accessions to the farm during the last month as follows: One Montgomery, from Fairfield, came on the 15th; one Will Hurd from Belleview on the 28th ult., who is blind, and one Paul Johnson from Kendrick, all colored men. Charley Haynes, as above referred to, having died with consumption, and Andrew Stevens now down with the same disease, I recommend that should the board conclude to continue maintaining the farm after the present system that additional house room be provided whereby those of contagious diseases may be separated from the other inmates, as additional space is quite necessary. The health of the inmates is reasonably good, except as to those who are afflicted with incurable diseases, or those who are very old. In the persons of Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Freeman, both white, I suggest that they have especial care, as they are both very feeble indeed. More bedding and covering I think necessary in order that they may be made comfortable during the cold weather.

This winds up my two years of supervision of the farm, and I beg to state that I have endeavored to use such economy as I thought advisable considering, however, first the suffering humanity with which I had to deal, and were it to be gone through with again, I would use more money and increase the benefits of the inmates.

Superintendent Priest has gathered 20 bushels of velvet beans and 35 bushels of corn from the bean field; has a fine crop of pigs and a good garden; 4 or 5 nice porkers to butcher as yet. I also recommend that 3 good milk cows be purchased and supply the inmates with plenty of milk and butter.

S. R. PYLES,
Commissioner in Charge.

Hereto find financial report:

Report of Poor Farm for December, 1909

Superintendent, \$35; hired help, \$9.85; washing and ironing, \$9.50; cooking, \$14; nurse, 7; Ocala Furniture Co., \$2.50; Sumner Lumber Co., \$1.93; W. P. Edwards, \$4.15; Martin & Carn, \$2.05; Melver & MacKay, \$6.25; Tydings & Co., \$6.60; Helveston & Pasteur, \$16.19; Ocala Wagon

Wors, \$3.75; L. P. Olin, \$27.10. Total, \$145.87. Read and approved.

W. M. Lucius, superintendent of hard roads, presented report as follows:

Ocala, Fla., Jan. 4, 1908.

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida:

Gentlemen—I think I have built somewhere about three-fourths of a mile of hard road during the last four weeks, and have had to grub trees and stumps from same thirty feet wide ahead of the road building. Think I will reach the three-mile limit some time next week, after which I will have back-work along the road that will require a week or ten days to finish up, then I will be ready or other work or other instruction.

My expenses for the last month, including all bills (except one at Melver & MacKay's) amount to \$873.24. You will find itemized bills in clerk's office. Have on hand \$65. Think \$150 more will meet next month's expenses.

W. M. LUCIUS.

Which report was read and approved.

On motion the board re-affirmed the former resolution of the board as to the extension of the hard roads leading out of Ocala, the roads taking their turn as to extension as they were built. The next road under the rules being repairs and extension of the hard road to Sharps Ferry or Bridge.

On motion the matter of getting a hoisting engine and outfit to be used on lime pit for repairs and extension of hard road to Sharps Ferry was left to the discretion of the chairman of the board and hard roads superintendent.

On motion superintendent of hard roads, Mr. Lucius, was authorized to sell to the best advantage one wagon in his custody not now in use.

On motion chairman of the board was authorized to repair and re-cover the shed used for road machinery.

On motion warrant for \$150 was ordered drawn in favor of W. M. Lucius, superintendent of hard roads, for use in employing free labor.

On motion tax collector was recommended that assessment on south half of lot 4, block 8, N. S. S. Ocala, be reduced from \$800 to \$350.

Thereupon the board adjourned until 1:30 for dinner.

Tuesday, January 5, 1:30 P. M.

Board re-convened at 1:30 p. m. All members present.

Dr. Henry of Lake Weir appeared and asked for \$35 to be expended on extending road from Oklawaha to Lake Weir, the neighborhood improvement committee to add \$35 to the amount requested, work to be done under the supervision of the commissioner in charge. Request was granted.

The sealed bids for the purchase of the poor farm were taken up and discussed. On motion of Commissioner Mathews all bids were refused.

Commissioner Proctor moved that the board discontinue the farming operations at the poor farm except such as can be done by the superintendent, and that a superintendent be employed for the year 1909 to conduct the poor farm as a sanitarium. Motion was carried.

Board thereupon went into executive session to consider the sealed bids for superintendent of the poor farm, ferryman and road overseers.

On motion the superintendency of the poor farm was awarded to Mr. W. J. May.

Mr. C. C. Priest, former and retiring superintendent of the county poor farm having in his trust \$300, which has accrued to one William Leaman, pauper, by reason of an Indian war pension, the said Leaman having in the past willed all money by reason of said pension to Marion county at his death, by order we, the commissioners of Marion county, have received the aforesaid money and placed it in the county proper fund to be held in trust till the said William Leaman shall have died.

On motion Mrs. Marshall was re-installed on the pauper list at \$5 per month.

On motion Mr. Chalker was continued as jailer at present salary for the year 1909.

On motion petition of C. H. Vance for relief was referred to Commissioner Mathews for investigation and report.

Mr. J. B. Clarkson, secretary of the executive committee of the Florida State Fair Association and Mr. Allan Rodgers, appeared in the aforesaid fair's interest, asking for an appropriation to be made to furnish an exhibit of Marion county. After discussion the request was refused.

Board thereupon adjourned to meet Wednesday at 8 a. m.

Wednesday, January 6, 1909

The board re-convened pursuant to adjournment, all members being present.

On motion the board purchased a milk cow from Mr. C. C. Priest at \$25 for use at the poor farm.

On motion Commissioner J. M. Mathews was appointed commissioner in charge of the poor farm for the year 1909.

On motion the clerk was requested to write a letter to each pauper in the county to meet the board at its next regular meeting in February or send a proper representative, and to state that if they do not come or send a representative their allowance will be cut off.

On motion the clerk was authorized to purchase a new typewriter for his office and to sell the old one now in use in exchange or to the best advantage.

Mr. W. W. Clyatt, representing the city of Ocala, appeared and asked for the city's proportion of the road fund. Tax Collector Carney was called and reported that he could not get up this report until the city books were brought in showing city limits and collections.

Bids for road overseers in the several districts were opened and referred to the respective commissioners. The bids were as follows:

District No. 1

L. L. Priest, \$2 per day, including horse and wagon.

C. I. Grace, \$2 per day.

R. A. Baskin, \$1.50 per day, and \$2 extra per day where horse and wagon is furnished.

District No. 2

J. F. Parker, as to south half of district, \$2 per day, including horse and wagon.

S. J. McCully, for Blitchton district, \$2 per day, including horse and wagon.

W. D. Mathews, for northern district, \$2 per day.

Will B. Rawls, \$1.50 per day, including horse and wagon.

O. M. Richard, for Ocala and Archer road, \$1.50 per day, including horse and wagon.

C. H. Gray, \$2 per day.

J. W. Morrison, for Camp Izard, Dunnellon and Cotton Plant districts, \$1.50 per day.

District No. 3

W. A. Redding, for west half of district, \$2 per day.

A. J. Small, \$1.75 per day.

F. M. Snell, for half of district, \$2 per day, including horse and wagon.

S. H. Cauthen, \$2 per day, including horse and wagon.

J. S. Driggs, \$1.98 per day, including horse and wagon.

District No. 4

J. M. Mock, south district, \$1.50 per day, with all necessary parts and team furnished.

M. H. Morrison, for south district, \$2 per day, including team.

Wm. Deas, for south part, \$1.45 per day, including team.

J. N. Stevens, for north part, \$1.40 per day, including team.

Jonas H. Hallford, \$1.95 per day, including team.

Chas. H. Hogan, for northern district, \$1.35 per day, including team.

E. E. Perkins, for south district, \$1.40 per day, including team.

L. W. Wilson, for north half of district, \$1.40 per day, including team.

J. L. Tucker, for northern district, \$1.10 per day, including team.

District No. 5

J. P. Brinson, for district No. 27, \$1.75 per day.

W. H. Dudley, \$1.90 per day.

D. W. Teuton, \$2 per day and furnish team.

A. J. Albritton, \$2.50 per day, and furnish team.

H. McQuaig, \$2 per day.

D. B. Mathews \$2 per day.

R. C. Stevenson, \$2.50 per day, and furnish team.

C. L. Thigpen, \$2 per day.

C. T. Scott, \$2 per day, and furnish team.

Messrs. J. J. Gerig and Z. C. Chambliss, as committee for Marion County Fair Association, appeared and asked for a return of the county's proportion of the license paid for conducting the fair and also the money paid to special deputy sheriffs on the fair grounds. On motion of Commissioner Fort, the county refunded the county's part of license paid, or \$25.

Letter of T. E. Bridges & Co., and answer of Clerk S. T. Sistrunk, relative to the keeping of the prisoners in their custody from January 8th to February 3rd, 1909, was read and approved.

After discussion it was decided to maintain the free ferries over the Oklawaha river, as are now in operation.

Bids for ferryman at Eureka ferry were referred to Commissioner Crosby for report at the February meeting.

On motion ferryman at Stark's, Heather Island and Grahamville ferries were continued at the same salaries as during 1908.

On motion Commissioner Fort was authorized to have flat and outfit at Sharp's Ferry taken to Grahamville and used there until the flat at Grahamville could be repaired.

On motion Walter Nichols was recommended to the governor for appointment as inspector of marks and brands for district No. 23.

After discussion, the matter of renting poor farm lands now in use was left with Commissioner Mathews for disposal to the best advantage.

On motion Commissioner J. M. Mathews was appointed successor of Mr. C. C. Priest as trustee for William Leaman as to the matter of trust under the will of said William Leaman.

On motion the clerk was requested to write a letter to each pauper in the county to meet the board at its next regular meeting in February or send a proper representative, and to state that if they do not come or send a representative their allowance will be cut off.

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